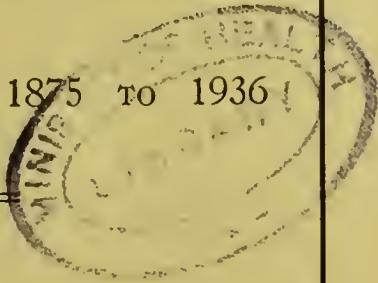


PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1875 TO 1936



REPORT
ON THE
SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE
BRADFORD-ON-AVON
URBAN DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1946

PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL BY
JEAN MURRAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health, and
K. R. BLACKMORE, Cert. R.S.I.
Sanitary Inspector

of the Bradford-on-Avon Urban Sanitary Authority

Annual Report of Medical Officer

BRADFORD-ON-AVON URBAN DISTRICT

— : —

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area—2,005 acres.

Population—5,050 (estimated).

Number of Inhabited Houses—1,544.

Rateable Value—£24,649.

Sum represented by Penny Rate—£97 : 0 : 1d.

Social Conditions

During the year, the Emergency Maternity Hospital ceased to be used for the reception of expectant mothers from London, and was taken over by the Wilts County Council as a Maternity Home for the reception of persons resident in the County. Patients were admitted from many of the towns and villages in the County, including the Borough of Swindon, a number of them being accommodated in an ante-natal hostel at Woolley Grange, prior to admission to the hospital. The Hostel for Difficult and Mal-adjusted Children referred to in my last year's Report, was still in use, being administered by the Wilts County Council.

The Rubber Works, the main industry in the town, was still working to capacity, and the several smaller works—a 'Precision' (small parts) factory, a factory for the manufacture of small engines, and a cabinet maker, still function and give employment both to workers from other districts and local people.

VITAL STATISTICS

		M.	F.	Total.
Live Births	...	54	58	112
Legitimate	...	51	51	102
Illegitimate	...	3	7	10
Still Births	...	0	3	3
Legitimate	...	0	1	1
Illegitimate	...	0	2	2

	M.	F.	...	Total.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	4	5	...	9
Legitimate	3	3	...	6
Illegitimate	1	2	...	3
Deaths of Infants under 2 years				
From Diarrhoea and Enteritis	1	0	...	1
Deaths (from All Causes) ...	45	44	...	89

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

Live Birth Rate :—		Compare.	
22·2 per 1,000 population		England & Wales	19·1
Still Birth Rate :—			
0·50 per 1,000 population	„	„	0·53
Death Rate Infants under 1 year :—			
80·0 per 1,000 live births	„	„	43·0
Death Rate Infants under 2 years			
from Diarrhoea and Enteritis :—			
8·9 per 1,000 live births	„	„	4·4
Death Rate :—			
17·4 per 1,000 population	„	„	11·5

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

	M.	F.	...	Total.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	0	0	...	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	0	0	...	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	...	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	...	0
Diphtheria	0	0	...	0
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	0	0	...	0
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...	0	1	...	1
Syphilitic Diseases	0	0	...	0
Influenza	0	0	...	0
Measles	0	0	...	0
Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis ...	0	0	...	0
Acute Infective Encephalitis ...	0	0	...	0
Cancer of Buceal Cavity :				
Oesophagus (M); Uterus (F)	0	0	...	0
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	0	0	...	0
Cancer of Breast	0	1	...	1
Cancer of all other sites	4	2	...	6
Diabetes	0	0	...	0

		M.	F.	Total.
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	...	4	6	10
Heart Disease	...	19	22	41
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	...	0	0	0
Bronchitis	...	1	1	2
Pneumonia	...	2	3	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	0	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	0	1	1
Diarrhoea, under 2 years	...	1	0	1
Appendicitis	...	0	0	0
Other Digestive Diseases	...	2	1	3
Nephritis	...	3	0	3
Puerperal and Post Abortion Sepsis	0	0	0	0
Other Maternal Causes	...	0	0	0
Premature Birth	...	2	2	4
Congenital Malprivations; Birth Injury and Infantile Diseases	...	0	0	0
Suicide	...	0	0	0
Road Traffic Accidents	...	1	1	2
Other Violent Causes	...	3	1	4
All Other Causes	...	3	1	4
Total	45	44	...	89
	—	—	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

I. **Staff.** (i) One part-time Medical Officer (a full-time Public Health Officer who acts for 2 other districts, and is also an Assistant County Medical Officer).
(ii) One Sanitary Inspector who is also the Surveyor.

II. (a) **Laboratory Facilities**

Dr. Douglas Thornton, the County Pathologist, Salisbury General Infirmary; Messrs. Waterfall & O'Brien, Bristol.

N.B.—All swabs, etc., collected from the 5.30 p.m. 'bus at Salisbury. Other 'buses or trains met on receipt of a telephone message.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities**

(i) During the war the local division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, with the assistance of the "1941 Club," collected sufficient money to buy an ambulance. Through the kindness of Messrs. Spencer Moulton it is garaged in the centre of the Town, and members of the Brigade act as drivers and attendants.

(ii) The one-time C.D. Ambulance continues to work for the County Council under the County Council Car Pool, and there are still a few car drivers who volunteered for this work. Miss Hopkins, the C.D. Transport Officer, can give information on this service.

(c) Nursing in the Home

There are two local District Nurses—one general, one midwife.

The County Council have tried to obtain "Home Helps" but with little success.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics

A Child Welfare Clinic is held in the Old Church House on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. I attend on the 1st Tuesday; the County full-time Health Visitor with the assistance of two local nurses attends both sessions. Immunisation is carried on every 1st Tuesday.

(e) Hospital Accommodation and Maternity Homes

(i) Strenuous efforts continue to be made to open Bradford Leigh House as a local hospital. The local Committee hope that it will offer facilities for treatment of all kinds, but will be run in conjunction with the Royal United Hospital, Bath, where all major operations, etc., will still be carried out. It is hoped that the establishment of this hospital will relieve the strain on the Royal United Hospital and allow for longer convalescent treatment.

(ii) Berryfield Maternity Hospital is now owned by the Wilts County Council and used for Wiltshire cases.

The Trowbridge & District Hospital Maternity Dept. (13 beds) continued to admit Bradford-on-Avon cases.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Water Supply

During the year, the Council has had under consideration reports by their consultants in regard to measures to be taken to improve the water supply to the higher level areas of the town, and it is anticipated that a scheme will shortly be submitted to the Ministry for consideration and approval.

The quality of the water supplied was satisfactory.

TYPICAL BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

(1) From Reservoir

1. Bacteriological Count

Total colonies growing on agar at 37° C in 48 hours : 2 per 1 ml. of water.

2. B. Coli Counts at 37° C in 48 hours and 44° C in 48 hours.

Quantity of Water Tested	Acid and Gas from lactose				
	at 37° C				
Five tubes of 10 ml. water	—	—	—	—	—
Five tubes of 1 ml. water	—	—	—	—	—

As result of calculation made from above:

- (1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 ml. growing at 37° C Nil
- (2) Number of Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 ml. growing at 44° C Nil

OPINION :—

Bacteriological examination shows no evidences whatsoever of harmful pollution.

(2) From Sub-Station

1. **Bacteriological Count**
Total colonies growing on agar at 37°C in 48 hours : 4 per 1 ml. of water.
2. **B. Coli Counts at 37°C in 48 hours and 44°C in 48 hours.**

Quantity of Water Tested	Acid and Gas from lactose			
	at 37°C		at 44°C	
Five tubes of 10 ml. water	—	—	—	—
Five tubes of 1 ml. water	—	—	—	—

As result of calculation made from above :

- (1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 ml. growing at 37°C 3
- (2) Number of Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 ml. growing at 44°C Nil

OPINION :—

Bacteriological examination shows very small numbers of surface type coliform organisms only.

(3) From Tap in Centre of Town (office)

1. Bacteriological Count

Total colonies growing on agar at 37°C in 48 hours : 1 per 1 ml. of water.

2. B. Coli Counts at 37°C in 48 hours and 44°C in 48 hours.

Quantity of Water Tested	at 37°C				Acid and Gas from lactose at 44°C			
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Five tubes of 10 ml. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Five tubes of 1 ml. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

As result of calculation made from above :

- (1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 ml. growing at 37°C Nil
- (2) Number of Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 ml. growing at 44°C Nil

OPINION :—

Bacteriological examination shows no evidences whatsoever of harmful pollution.

Type of Supply

I. Rivers and Streams

There has been no necessity for action to prevent pollution in the district.

II. (1) Closet Accommodation

A few houses on the outlying portion of the town only have other than water-closets.

(2) Public Cleansing

The work is carried out by the Council's employees.

III. Sewage Disposal

There has been no extension of the sewerage system, and the Sewage Works continued to function satisfactorily.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications corrected and arranged for Sex and Age

Age Group	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	0	0	3	4	0	0
1	2	0	7	7	0	0
3	2	0	4	11	0	0
5	3	5	10	12	0	2
10	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 and over	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS ...	7	5	24	34	0	2

Age Group	Pneumonia		Erysipelas	
	M	F	M	F
0	0	0	0	0
5	1	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0
45	1	0	0	0
65 and over	0	0	1	0
Age unknown	0	0	0	0
TOTALS ...	2	0	1	0

Puerperal Pyrexia—1 case.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—3 cases, all male.

Diphtheria—1 case, male aged 1 year.

As in other years, the cases of Scarlet Fever were mild ones.

Diphtheria Immunisation

This continued to be carried out by the County Council, their special officer appointed for this work visiting the schools at intervals. In future, the original first immunisation of children under school age will be carried on at the Child Welfare Clinic, Church House, on the 1st Tuesday in each month, by myself. The re-immunisation of school children will be started as soon as practicable.

It is hoped that in future the number of children immunised will approximate much more to the number of children born. The most far-seeing parents do not wait to be informed about it, but ask for it: many of the others come forward after persuasion by the Nurse, but there are still many who prefer not to accept the offer to safeguard their children, and thus help to safeguard all other children.

The only case of Diphtheria occurred in a newcomer to the town: the Health Visitor noticed the child playing in the garden and called on the mother. Finding that he had not been immunised, she offered the mother the opportunity of bringing him to the Clinic, and the mother agreed. Before, however, he could be brought—within a very few days of his arrival—he developed Diphtheria. He made a good recovery. There were no contact cases.

The table given below has been supplied by the County Medical Officer.

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1946.

Age at 31st December, 1946	Under 15					Total	
	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	under 15
i.e., born in year ..	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1937-41	1932-6
Number Immunised ...	—	28	35	31	36	253	266
Estimated Mid-Year Population 1946 ..						650	1037

HOUSING

The following work has been carried out by the Council :—

I. Temporary Houses

During the year, the Budbury Site for 10 Prefabricated Houses was completed, and the houses have been occupied, mainly by young married couples, mostly with children.

Application was made to the Ministry for a further allocation of Temporary Houses, with the gratifying result that an additional 20 Temporary Houses were allocated. These will be erected on a site at Ashley Road.

II. Permanent

(a) **“Churches’” Site.** A contract for the erecting of 20 Permanent Houses on the “Churches’” Site was signed in July, 1946, and work commenced that month. Reasonably good progress, having regard to difficulties in connection with supplies of materials and labour, was maintained until the abnormally bad winter of 1946, when progress was rather slowed down. No houses were completed ready for occupation during the year.

(b) **Priory Park Site.** It is the Council’s intention to erect 42 houses on this site in due course.

(c) **New Road Site.** The Council hope to erect 40 houses on this site.

(d) **Avonfield Site.** The Council intend that approximately 50 houses should be erected on this site.

Requisitioning of Houses for Unsuitably Housed Persons

The Council has continued the use of suitable houses originally requisitioned for evacuation purposes, for the accommodation of inadequately housed persons.

As so many of the old houses in the town, already pre-war far below the housing standards, are suffering from a further 8 years’ use, it is hoped that the new housing plans will go ahead. Bradford-on-Avon, being a picturesque historic town built on a steep rocky hillside, offers many difficulties in the improvement of existing houses. In certain cases in the past where persons have been willing to discount the difficulties in favour of the view and sunshine, quite desirable little houses for single people have been made from the old cottages : at the expense of those willing to live in them. The problem of making them conform to the

standards laid down by the Housing Act "at reasonable expense" is almost insuperable. Many of them are built with at least 2 storeys against the rock, making through ventilation an impossibility. Lack of space inside the houses (some of them have 'cave-like' kitchens actually sunk into the rockface) and low ceilings make the conversion of them internally almost impossible.

JEAN MURRAY.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Nuisance Inspections

Number of Inspections made in 1946 ...	...	60
,, Informal Notices served ...	...	19
,, ,, complied with ...	...	16
,, Statutory Notices served ...	...	0
,, ,, ,, complied with ...	...	0

New Houses

The erection of 4 houses under licence was completed.

The alteration of 2 houses to provide 11 flats was completed and families inadequately housed accommodated.

Roads and Sewers for 42 Council Houses on the "Churches" Site were completed.

Roads and Sewers for 20 Temporary Houses were commenced.

Dairies and Cowsheds

Number of Cowsheds	...	...	...	25
,, ,, Inspections	...	...	...	20
,, ,, Dairies	...	...	...	26
,, ,, Inspections	...	...	...	20

Slaughterhouses

Number of Slaughterhouses (Registered)	...	2
(Licensed)	...	3

No slaughtering has occurred at the above during the year.

Number of Butchers' Shops	...	...	5
,, ,, ,, Inspected	...	...	5

Signed KENNETH R. BLACKMORE,
Sanitary Inspector.

